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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/031,209	05/13/2002	A Neil Boucher	COHP-4570	2478

7590

07/14/2003

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EXAMINER

JACKSON, CORNELIUS H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2828

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/031,209

Applicant(s)

BOUCHER ET AL.

Examiner

Cornelius H. Jackson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-14, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-14, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 24 April 2002 was filed after the mailing date of the Application on 11 January 2002. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the thickness of the dielectric stack and/or spacer layer varying spatially, circularly, linearly, etc. must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-8, 10-14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claims 1-8, 10-14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the dielectric stack, metallic layer and the spacer layer. It is unclear how the plurality of elements are joined together and interact with one another or how the spacer layer is placed between the other two elements.

6. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: of the spacer layer in the symbolically described filter, since the spacer and its thickness is represented by nL but the description only shows nH .

7. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out how "x" is to be interpreted as or used within the stacking sequence.

8. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such

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omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: how the optical filter is incorporated in/with a laser structure, that is, whether the two elements are optically coupled or whether the filter is part of the laser structure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Trost et al. (5341238). Regarding claim 1, Trost et al. disclose an optical filter **Fig. 4-6** comprising; a dielectric stack **38 (or 42, 44,46,48,64)** of alternating relatively high and low refractive index layers; an opaque, reflective metallic layer **34**; and a dielectric spacer **36 (or 40)** layer located between the dielectric stack and the metallic layer, the filter having a resonant wavelength, at which wavelength incident radiation is channeled into, and absorbed by, the metallic layer **34**, **see col. 4, line 27-col. 8, line 12**.

Regarding claim 2, Trost et al. disclose the dielectric spacer layer **36 (or 40)** has the same composition and thickness as one of the constituent layers in the dielectric stack **38 (or 42, 44,46,48,64)**, **see col. 4, line 56-col. 5, line 31**.

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Regarding claim 3, Trost et al. disclose one of the dielectric stack and spacer layer, varies in thickness spatially, over the metallic layer, **see col. 7, line 57-col. 8, line 12.**

Regarding claim 6, Trost et al. disclose the wavelength absorbed varies with linear and/or rotational position of the stack and/or space, in relation to incident light, **see col. 4, line 27-col. 8, line 12.**

Regarding claims 7, 8 and 10, Trost et al. disclose all the stated limitations, **see col. 5, lines 27-48, col. 6, line 30-39 and col. 7, lines 5-21.**

Regarding claims 17 and 18, Trost et al. disclose all the stated limitations, **see rejections to claims above**, since it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. **See also, Fig. 6 and col. 7, lines 34-49.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 5 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trost et al. (5341238). Trost, as applied to claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 17

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and 18 above, teach all the stated limitations except wherein one of the dielectric stack, and spacer layer, thickness varies circularly or linearly over the metallic layer, a stacking sequence of Substrate / M HHH (LH)⁴/ ambient or Substrate / M (HL)²xH(LH)²/ ambient, or how the filter is configured to steeper the absorption characteristic edge and so square off filter performance or operate in the wavelength band 8 to 12 mm.

Regarding claims 4, 5, 11 and 12, it has been held "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

Regarding claims 13 and 14, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "configured to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. it does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchison*, 69 USPQ 138.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patents 4009453, 4335935, 5784504, 5814416, 5874,803, 6154480, 6185241 and European Patent 0921419 all disclose a related invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cornelius H. Jackson whose telephone number is (703) 306-5981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 5:00, Monday - Friday.

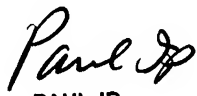
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Ip can be reached on (703) 308-3098. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-7722 for regular communications and (703)308-7721 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.



chj
June 27, 2003


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